



## Baby won't break the bank any more

A new scheme allows Leys parents and carers on low incomes to borrow high-quality childcare equipment.

PARENTS ON THE Leys can now borrow baby equipment instead of having to buy new. The Leys Lending Scheme lends equipment such as high chairs and cots to people who would otherwise find it difficult to buy. The scheme is completely free to users.

The scheme, run by the Leys Children's Centre, officially launched on 9th July.

Parents and carers gathered at Windale School to find out more about the scheme and enjoy a delicious buffet.

Pauline Thomas, Outreach and Inclusion Worker for the Leys Children's Centre, explained that the Leys Lending Scheme is modelled on a very successful existing scheme at Rose Hill.

The launch gave parents the chance to look at the equipment available through the scheme, which includes booster seats, high chairs, playpens and safety equipment. They were also given a pack containing vital information about how to keep babies and young children safe.

The Leys Lending Scheme was officially opened by Annie Davey, head of early learning and childcare for Oxfordshire County Council. In a brief speech, she highlighted the progress that Oxfordshire has made in support for new parents since she herself was a new mother.

Speaking to Leys News later, Ms Davey praised the Leys Lending Scheme, but emphasised the need to support parents in organising their own schemes as well. "We need to help them develop their own thing. That enhances the community network."

Jenny Martin, head of the Leys Children's Centre, explained the decision to make the Leys Lending Scheme free.

"There is no fee at all - it's all free because low-income families often struggle making ends meet." She added that health workers



Halima (centre) with son Reuben joins other residents to celebrate the scheme launch.

are promoting the scheme in an attempt to "reach isolated families who wouldn't otherwise be reached".

The scheme is open to any parents or carers receiving benefits, allowances, tax credits or income support. If you are eligible for the scheme, you will be able to borrow the equipment absolutely free.

If you would like to know more, please

phone Pauline Thomas on 01865 779615.

The Leys Children's Centre is for families with children from birth to five years old. It works with health, educational and voluntary organisations throughout the Leys to develop services for young children and their families. It currently operates through three sites: Cuddesdon Corner, Pegasus School and Windale School.

Issue 56 - August 2007



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## Will new sports pitch be worth the wait?

Young footballers on the Leys will soon be getting somewhere to play - after an 11-year wait.



THE CITY COUNCIL has finally approved the creation of a "kickabout" football pitch on Spindleberry Park. The decision to approve the all-weather pitch was taken by Oxford City Council in July.

However, no-one could accuse the city council of making a hasty decision on the football pitch. Most of the money for the pitch was given to the city council in 1996. Wilmott Dixon, developers of the Frys Hill and Brake Hill housing, gave the city council £161,500, designated for recreation facilities, in what is known as a planning gain agreement. The principle behind planning gain agreements is that the developer agrees to provide additional benefits to the community at its own expense. The council has therefore been sitting on money that rightfully belongs to the Leys community.

The option chosen for the pitch is an "artificial grass system with sand/rubber crumbs". The size of the pitch will be 60m x 35m. It is estimated that a pitch of this nature will last between 10 and 12 years. It will cost £196,000. The council are now researching ways in which to bridge the £34,500 gap between the money already received and the cost of the pitch.



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## Leys News 56

**Leys News** is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community. We are not affiliated to any political party, and we operate an equal opportunities policy. We encourage any resident to get involved in our work.

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## Kassam Stadium houses flood victims

The Kassam Stadium has become a temporary centre for refugees. Oxford residents driven out of their homes by recent flooding are staying at the stadium, which has been supplied with Army blankets to keep people warm.

As Leys News went to press, organisations at the stadium were preparing for large numbers of evacuees – possibly over a thousand. St John Ambulance and the Red Cross are among the organisations giving emergency aid.

## Tasty reward for Leys News letter-writer



Leys resident Paula Braye was presented with a box of Krispy Kreme doughnuts – just for writing a letter to Leys News. Krispy Kreme, makers of the doughnuts, are currently sponsoring the Leys News letters page. This means that our best letter-writers will receive a free box of freshly baked doughnuts for their trouble.

We have three boxes to give away to the writers of the three best letters published. All you have to do is send us a letter, either by email (editor@leysnews.co.uk) or by post to our Kingfisher Green address. Get scribbling, and perhaps you'll be munching on a free box of doughnuts shortly.

## An afternoon of music

BY ROY SIMMONDS

PUPILS AT WINDALE Primary School entertained their parents with an afternoon of cello and violin music.

On 20th July, years 3 and 4 at Windale performed in front of about 60 parents. The boys and girls have been learning to play the cello and violin for a year under the careful eye of their teacher, Mr Hattwood from the Oxfordshire County Music Service.

Pupils at Windale can now go on to greater proficiency through tuition provided by the county music service.

**Left: young musician**  
**Lehia Platt**



## Leys Fair

The 2007 Leys Fair is scheduled for September and Leys News will definitely be there. This is your chance to meet the faces behind your favourite local paper and suggest ways in which the paper could improve. We're very keen to meet you and hear your views.

*More information about the Leys Fair will be posted on our website as we received it. Check out [www.leysnews.co.uk](http://www.leysnews.co.uk) for the latest news.*

## Baby Café on the move

Leys Baby Café has now moved to Cuddesdon Corner. It moved from Pegasus School on 20th July. The full address for the café is now Cuddesdon Corner, 61-63 Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6SB.

Leys Baby Café is a drop-in centre offering breastfeeding help, information and support to pregnant and breastfeeding mums. It is open on Fridays from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

*For general enquiries outside the café's opening times, contact the Leys Children's Centre on 01865 779615 or the Leys Health Visitors on 01865 788688.*

## Windale School Fete

On Saturday 14th July 2007 Windale held their annual summer fete in the school grounds. There were lots of stalls, including a tombola, lucky dip, raffle (with lots of prizes on the table) and Penalty Shoot Out, where the aim was to get the ball through one of the holes. Hook-a-duck was run by Shepherds Hill Pre School. Children also had the chance to make a biscuit with coloured icing, as well as enjoying the bouncy castle, and pony rides for the younger children. The afternoon was a big success. Well done to everyone who helped on the day.

*More School News on page 10*

## Announcement:

### Windale Fundraisers

Windale School would like to thank everyone that came and took part in the recent tabletop and cake sale. The tabletop sale raised £25 and the Pre-School cake sale raised £40 – big thanks to everyone.

The end of term disco was lots of fun. It also gave the sixth form a chance to say goodbye to everybody and the teachers as well. And we all hope they do well in their new schools wherever they are going. Thanks again, everyone, for your support

*Bridget & Lorrain*

# Remembering Debbie Mccarthy

**Debbie Mccarthy, also known as "Sis", touched many lives on the Leys. Her son Frank spoke to Leys News about his mother's eventful life.**

LEYS CHILDREN ARE missing a familiar face at the Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre this summer. Debbie Mccarthy first visited the centre twenty years ago, bringing her brood of six grandchildren with her.

Mrs Mccarthy's son Frank says that this is a good example of his mother's hardworking nature and generosity. "She made Cuddesdon Corner popular at the start, encouraging people to go. But she still wanted to help out even when it was doing well – she didn't stop coming to the centre after her grandchildren were grown up."

In fact, Mrs Mccarthy came to Cuddesdon Corner for twenty years, helping out three mornings and three afternoons a week until her final illness.

Although she was an important part of Leys life, Debbie Mccarthy (nee Flynn) was not born in the area. She was born in Limerick in southern Ireland. Her nickname "Sis" came about because she was the big sister of a family of eight.

She came to Oxfordshire when her husband, Jimmy Mccarthy, began working for the Ministry of Transport in Bicester. The council offered them a home in Ashmole Place and the couple settled happily in Blackbird Leys.

Frank believes that her Irish attitude was partly why she was so well-liked on the Leys. "She would always talk to you – to anybody. Irish people are more chatty; they're always got time to talk."

During their early days on the Leys, Debbie worked evenings and weekends at classy restaurants in central Oxford. Frank recalls the time she brought home frogs' legs and the family thought it was chicken!

Mr and Mrs Mccarthy had six children, all of whom did well in their chosen career paths. Frank, their third son, has worked in the building trade for nearly thirty-five years. The family have also kept in touch with Debbie's sisters and brothers, who all emigrated to Canada between fifty and sixty years ago. Debbie used to visit Vancouver regularly to see her family.

Jimmy Mccarthy was known in Ireland as a founder member of the band Jimmy Mac's. They were a 12-piece band who performed traditional Irish music. Jimmy himself was a very versatile musician who could play seven or eight instruments. He passed away twenty years ago, but some of his musical talent survives in his grown-up children.



Leys residents who knew Debbie Mccarthy were perhaps most impressed by her energy. She regularly made the trip to Cowley shopping centre and back on foot, and was still doing this until very shortly before her final illness.

Others may remember her from the bingo. She would usually be accompanied by a friend of hers, a 90-year-old war veteran. She was determined that his blindness wouldn't get in the way

of a good game of bingo, so she used to do his numbers for him.

The passing of Debbie Mccarthy this spring has grieved a lot of people on the Leys. She leaves behind a devoted family and many close friends. However, her son Frank urges those who knew her to celebrate her life rather than dwelling on her passing. She touched many lives and her memory is here to stay.

## Leys News 57

**Out early October**

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*Leys News acknowledges financial assistance from: Catalyst Communities Housing Association, Oxford Citizens Housing Association, Cherwell Housing Trust, Awards for All, Blackbird Leys Community Chest, and the Community Champions Fund and support from: Newsquest (Oxfordshire).*

*Leys News is a company limited by guarantee No. 3591512*

# Tai Chi and tea-dancing

Leys residents enjoyed a whole host of activities at a Clockhouse open day.



RELAXATION AND FUN was the order of the day when the Clockhouse Community Centre opened its doors on 18th July.

The free open day began in suitably soothing style with a relaxation session and therapeutic massage. This was followed by a taster session in Tai Chi, a traditional Chinese form of exercise involving slow, graceful movements. The session was specially designed for people over 50 years old.

A raffle was drawn after the

buffet lunch. Prizes were donated by various local businesses and organisations, including Nash's Bakery, Trimmers Hairdressers and the Allotment Association.

The day finished in old-time style with a tea dance. Participants enjoyed tea and home-made scones after the dancing finished.

As well as being a lot of fun for those who attended, the open day also had a serious purpose: to give Leys residents,

especially older people, advice on health matters. A local health trainer and a community dietician gave advice on preparing healthy summer food and looking after yourself in hot weather.

*The event was organised by the Leys Community Development Initiative, Oxford Healthy Living Partnership, Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire NHS.*

## Competition Winners

Winners of last issue's Colouring Competition are (left) Akisha Morris, aged 2½, and (right) Rebecca Johnston, aged 10. Both winners win a day out to the Jamboray play centre.



## Look online for Leys News:

[www.leysnews.co.uk](http://www.leysnews.co.uk)

You can now get the latest news without waiting for Leys News to land on your doormat. Take a look at our revamped website.

LEYS RESIDENTS NO longer have to wait for the print edition of the paper to find out what's happening on the Leys. Our website, [www.leysnews.co.uk](http://www.leysnews.co.uk), has been relaunched.

We're updating the site at least once a week (and usually more often), so it's worth visiting to find out what's going on around the Leys. The site also contains plenty of information about the paper, as well as an archive of selected news and features from the past eleven years.

The new website is a great way of getting your news out quickly. If you're organising a community event, we can put your information on the site within days, so you don't have to wait for our print edition any more. We also plan to use the site for breaking news about issues such as crime.

We hope that the new site will be a useful resource for people on the Leys (and in the rest of Oxford), but technophobes and people without internet access won't be missing out. The print edition of Leys News will still be coming through your door every two months, and we have plans to make the next edition (our October issue) even bigger. We hope that everybody will continue to enjoy reading Leys News, whether it's at a computer terminal or at the kitchen table with a cuppa.



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# Carnival sets the city alight

The streets were filled with revellers on Sunday 1st July as the East Oxford community gathered for the Cowley Road Carnival.



Groovy Sue from Donnington Doorstep rocks the Fire! theme.

COWLEY ROAD WAS a cornucopia of colourful sights and exciting music. People grooved to the sounds of reggae, world music, indie rock, folk, country and more.

The procession started at around noon, heading from the Plain up to Bartlemas Road. The theme of the carnival was Fire!, and costumes showed the huge range of ways in which the theme can be interpreted.

The street was closed to traffic for the duration of the carnival, which allowed organisers to turn the whole area into a giant festival arena. Rectory Road was the location for the Phoenix Stage, playing acoustic and traditional music. The OX4 stage was on James Street, showcasing new music as well as well-loved local favourites such as Borderville. The Freedom Stage on Bartlemas Road was part of celebrations marking the anniversary of the end of the slave trade. It had an international feel, including West African rhythms from the Oxford Drum Troupe and Afro-Latin music from Sol Samba.

Crowds soaked up the atmosphere, enjoying the eclectic range of music, sampling the Caribbean food on offer or just gazing at the general spectacle. This was street-specific performance art with a democratic flavour.

Picture: Anna Pavelin

## Passion at the Castle

Oxford Castle will be the location for a contemporary retelling of the Gospels this summer. The Oxford Passion is based on the traditional street theatre of the mediaeval mystery plays. This production, from Creation Theatre, is the first play of its kind to be performed in Oxford for centuries.

The production is based on a fresh translation of the New Testament by Nicholas King. In keeping with the street theatre tradition of mystery plays, it features a large cast drawn from Oxford residents.

*The Oxford Passion runs from 1st August to 8th September. It is directed by Charlotte Conquest.*

## Magical concert for young musicians

The Magic Café on Magdalen Road will host a concert of classical music performed by Oxford Youth Theatre member David Mears and his friends and family. The concert will take place on Saturday 15th September at 7.30pm.

The programme will include pieces by Poulenc and Grieg as well as songs and music by the Howard Street Composers.

*Tickets for the evening cost £5 (£3 concessions) from the Pegasus Theatre box office on 01865 722851 and online at [www.pegasustheatre.org.uk](http://www.pegasustheatre.org.uk).*

## Smile, you're on camera

Kate Griffin sees a production of Hamlet that's truly in touch with modern preoccupations.



Hamlet (Gary Shelford) hides from Claudius (Simon Poole).

IT'S NOT EASY living life in the glare of the public spotlight, as certain Royals know to their cost. Sometimes the constant pressure can be enough to end a promising romance. I'm talking about Hamlet, Prince of Denmark; his problematic love-life and complicated

plans for revenge.

You see, Hamlet's father has just died unexpectedly. And Hamlet's uncle – even more unexpectedly – has married Hamlet's mum, which means he's now Hamlet's uncle, stepdad and king all in one.

The uncomfortable situation gets worse when Hamlet's real dad puts in a visit from beyond the grave. Apparently he's got a message for Hamlet – some shocking news and an unpleasant job to do.

Creation Theatre have taken the brave decision of putting all the teenage angst back into the play by performing what can only be described as an "emo" production. Just in case you don't know your MCR from your Jimmy Eat World: emo is a style of music that goes beyond punk rock to express a broader palette of emotions. The genre has also informed a whole style of dressing, which Creation drew on heavily for this production of Hamlet.

Luckily for Creation, a lot of emo dress looks as if it was tailor-made for a dank Danish castle, which makes Hamlet's frogged jacket a happy choice. But they weren't afraid to take risks either. Ophelia (Amanda Haberland) sports white dreadlocks, while scheming courtiers Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are unrecognisable, dressed as skeletons.

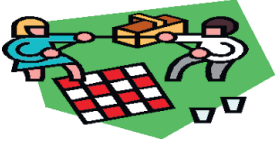
While the angst-ridden youth of the play dress in emo fashion, older characters find their own style. Simon Poole as Claudius stalks the stage in black leather, while Portia Booroff is a glamorous Gertrude. However, the strict black and white colour scheme gives all the costumes a sense of being part of the same world.

Gertrude's glamour is significant because it manifests itself in this production as a love of the camera. In the text of the play, there is an obsession with watching: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are agents of the King's surveillance and there is a general preoccupation with appearances. Creation's production goes a step further and trains cameras on the actors, reflecting modern preoccupations. Watching events unfold on screen as well as on stage lends a sinister unreality to events. The two courtiers are kitted out with bugging devices, which gives an extra dimension to the way Hamlet (Gary Shelford) trifles with them.

The graveyard scene in this production was an especial treat, particularly since there appears to be a trend in contemporary theatre for leaving it out altogether. Richard Rycroft had already turned in a virtuoso performance as Polonius – bringing out the character's vulnerability as well as getting maximum humour out of every scene – and this gave him yet another chance to shine as the gravedigger.

This is Creation's third production of Hamlet, and perhaps the one with the most appropriate setting. Oxford Castle is perfect for this tragic tale of thwarted love and pointless revenge. As the air turns chilly, the audience settle into their seats, knowing that whatever happens on stage, this is never going to end well.

# What's On at The Leys Children's Centre - August 2007

|                                                                                                                         | MORNING                                                                                                                                                                                                       | AFTERNOON                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b><br>Cuddesdon Corner<br>01865 773263                                                                       | Parent baby drop in.<br>9.30am – 11.30am<br>All parents with children under two<br>(and their older siblings welcome)                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>Cuddesdon Corner                                                                                      | Inclusive Playscheme every Tuesday in August<br>starting 7th August<br>Contact Victoria McAulay<br>01865 779615 for more details.<br>Places are very limited; age range is 3 – 5yrs<br>A small fee is payable | Stay and Play<br>12.30pm – 2.30pm<br>for everyone<br>Lunch available (small fee)                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>Cuddesdon Corner                                                                                    | Krafty Kids (all welcome)<br>10.00am – 11.45am<br>Starts 1st August                                                                                                                                           | TAP 1<br>TAP 2 Drop-in<br>Teenage and Young Parents<br>1.00pm – 3.00 pm                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>Cuddesdon Corner                                                                                     | Trips including Brighton, Bournemouth, Oxford City Centre and<br>Millets Farm. Contact Claire Johnson 01865 773263 for more details<br><br>Health Visitor Drop-in 11.15am – 1.00pm                            |                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Friday</b><br>Cuddesdon Corner<br> | Baby Café<br>(for breastfeeding and pregnant mums)<br>10.30am – 12.30pm<br>                                               | Stay and Play<br>11.30pm – 2.30pm<br>for everyone<br>Lunch available (small fee)<br><br>Friday 25th August<br>Cuddesdon Corner Big Summer Barbecue<br>11.30am – 3.00pm<br>Bring your kids – bring your friends – bring a<br>musical instrument! |
| <b>Saturday</b><br>Cuddesdon Corner                                                                                     | Dad's Zone on 4th and 18th August<br>10.00am – 12.00pm                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

More summer information, including information for children age 5 and over, is available from Oxfordshire Children's Information Service 08452 26 26 36 / [www.oxoncis.org.uk](http://www.oxoncis.org.uk) and also from Cuddesdon Corner on 01865 773263



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Ferry Sports Centre 01865 467060

Hinksey Pool 01865 467079  
Oxford Ice Rink 01865 467002  
Peers Sports Centre 01865 467095  
Temple Cowley Pools 01865 467124



## What's on in the Leys

**The What's On section is getting bigger and better. It's now organised by topic instead of by date, so you can go straight to the section that interests you. We've also changed the name because "What's On Weekly" doesn't give scope for less regular events. Leys News also has plans to display event listings on our brand new website ([www.leysnews.co.uk](http://www.leysnews.co.uk)). So please keep telling us about any events you'd like us to publicise. It's an easy and completely free way of telling thousands of Leys residents about your event.**

### CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

**Leys Kiddie Club** works in partnership with the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee and now runs in the Dovecote Family Drop in Room, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, 9.30am until 2.30pm. Cost: 75p per drop-in. Contact Ruth Brown on 07985 637487.

**Beavers** (aged 6-8) meet at the Blackbird Leys Scout Hut on Sandy Lane. Tuesdays 5pm-6pm. Ring (01865) 714104.

**Cubs** (aged 8-10½) meet at the Blackbird Leys Scout Hut on Sandy Lane. Tuesdays 6.30pm-8pm. Ring (01865) 714104.

**Dovecote After School Club** for 4-12 year olds is Monday-Thursday, 3.15pm-5pm, at the Dovecote. Cost: 75p per session.

**The Barn Youth Project**, Nightingale Avenue. Wednesdays 7.30-9pm. Music, art, sports, dance, tuck shop, etc. Discos during holidays. 50p per session. Free access to IT equipment and internet.

**Blackbird Leys Youth Centre**, Blackbird Leys Road. Variety of activities and advice for young people. Contact on (01865) 772886.

**Scouts** (aged 10½-15 ½) at the Blackbird Leys Scout Hut on Sandy Lane. Thursdays 7pm-8.30pm. Ring (01865) 714104.

**Cheerleading** for girls aged 6 and over is at the Leisure Centre on Pegasus Road. Tuesdays 4.30pm. 50p a session. Run by the Leys Youth Programme. Contact Matt and Katie Gamble on (01865) 427075.

**5-a-side football for girls** is at the Leisure Centre on Fridays. 5-6pm for years 3-6. 6-7pm for years 7 upwards. 50p a session. Run by the Leys Youth Programme. Contact Matt and Katie Gamble on (01865) 427075.

**5-a-side football for boys** is at the Leisure Centre on Fridays. 4-5pm for school years 3 to 6. 5-6pm for years 7 to 9. 6-7pm for years 10 and 11. 50p a session. Run by the Leys Youth Programme. Contact Matt and Katie Gamble on (01865) 427075.

**Starlight Black Child Mixed Heritage Group** meets every Wednesday during term time at Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground between 5pm and 6.30pm. The group provides a safe forum to explore issues of race and racism with other parents and occasional guest speakers, while the children have fun playing and getting to know each other.

### CHURCHES

**Church of the Holy Family** is on Cuddesdon Way. Sunday service at 10-11am with lively children's church. Evening service most Sundays at 6.30pm. The Church of the Holy Family is a local ecumenical partnership of Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Moravian and United Reformed denominations. Ring (01865) 396241.

**Leys Community Church.** Sunday service at the Holy Family Church. Includes special activities for children and young people. Starts at 3.30pm. Contact Richard and Kate Colbrook (01865) 714153.

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church** is on Sawpit Road. Sunday Mass is at 9.30am and 6pm. Ring (01865) 778454. COMPUTERS

**Blackbird Leys IT Zone** is at the Leys Linx Centre on Blackbird Leys Road. Learn about and use computers, the internet, email, scanning, printing (5p black & white, 20p colour), digital photography and video. Training courses available. Monday-Friday 9.30-4.30pm, Saturday 9.30-1.30pm. Ring John Clifford (01865) 714492.

### LEISURE

**Boxing training is at the Youth Centre** (part of the Leys Linx Centre on Blackbird Leys Road). Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7.30-9pm. Run by Keith Templar. Contact on (01865) 715815.

**Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre** is on Pegasus Road. Open Monday-Friday 8am-11pm, Saturday 9am-8pm, Sunday 9am-9pm. Variety of leisure activities and classes. Rooms and facilities available for private hire. Ring (01865) 467020.

**Legs, Bums & Tums** is at the Leisure Centre. Wednesdays 6-7pm.

**Tae Kwon Do** is at the Leisure Centre. Tuesdays 6-7pm.

**Body Conditioning** is at the Leisure Centre. Mondays 10-11am.

**Pilates for Beginners** is at the Leisure Centre. Tuesdays 7-7.45pm.

**Blackbird Leys Swimming Pool** is behind the community centre on Blackbird Leys Road. General swimming times are Mondays & Fridays 5.45-6.45pm, Saturdays & Sundays 11.15am-1pm. Other sessions available include over 60s, women-only, water workout and parent & toddler classes. Ring (01865) 467042.

**Irish dancing** is at Sacred Heart Hall. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 5pm.

**Salsa dancing** is at Clementine's Night Club on the Plain. Beginners and improvers welcome. 8pm til late. Ring 07858 860423 for more information.

### OLDER PEOPLE

**Silver Circle** meets at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre on Blackbird Leys Road. Tuesdays 1-3.30pm. Meet for trips, chats, tea, and bingo. Everyone welcome. Ring (01865) 435954.

**Golden Circle** meets for bingo, trips and tea at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre on Blackbird Leys Road. Thursdays 1pm-3.30pm. Everyone welcome. Ring (01865) 460592.

**Monday lunch club** for the over-50s is in the Clockhouse, 10am-1.30pm.

**Thursday lunch club** for the over-50s is at The Barn, 10am-2pm.

**Leys Over 60s Club.** Holy Family Church Hall. Wednesdays from 1.30pm until 4pm. Meet for trips, bingo, card games, a chat and free refreshments.

### SLIMMING

**Slimming World** meets at the leisure centre on Pegasus Road. Thursdays at 7pm and Fridays at 10am. Ring Gill on 01865 730009 for more information.

## Church News

**Give thanks for 50 years, celebrate the present and look forward to the future.**

On Sunday 9th September, there will be an international motorcade followed by a musical celebration for the community in Holy Family Church.

Please register your interest and support with a car to be decorated in national colours and/or flags, and any offers or suggestions for the celebration in church.

Contact Rev Fleur Houston on 01865 774672, Father David Hartley on 01865 779658 or Richard Colbrook on 01865 714153.

## The Church of the Holy Family

**Any enquiries to: the Rev'd Fleur Houston (774672) and the Rev'd David Parry (778728)**

**Regular Services:** All are welcome to our regular Sunday communion services at 10.00 am - there is special provision for children. And if you prefer a more meditative style of worship why not come along at 6.30 pm, for Time Out - for those of us who need a bit of space.

On Tuesdays at 9.00am we have short morning prayers for anyone to attend. On Wednesdays we have prayers for the Leys community at 1.00 pm.

Every Sunday there are services with Eucharist at 10.00 am; for part of the service, children may attend our lively children's church. At 6.30 pm Time Out is a short reflective service with different styles of worship each week.

## The Leys Community Church

**The Leys Community Church meets at 3.30pm on a Sunday afternoon at the Church of the Holy Family.**

Meetings include special activities for children and young people. Please phone Richard and Kate Colbrook on 01865 714153 for more details.

## Sacred Heart Catholic Church

**Serving Blackbird Leys, Greater Leys, Garsington and Cuddesdon. Fr. David Hartley, Tel 01865 779658.**

**Regular Services:**

Sundays: Masses 9.30am and 6.00pm

Mondays: Mass 9.00am

Tuesdays: Rosary 7.00pm and Mass 7.30pm

Thursdays: Adoration 6.30pm, and Mass 7.00pm

Fridays: Mass 9.00am

Saturday: Mass 10.00am, and Confessions 10.30am

### A chance to talk about faith

Door to door visitation by members of the Legion of Mary, from August 26th to 1st September. Visitors may come to your door to talk about your life and faith and give you a chance to talk about the Catholic faith. They will not pressure you in any way, but you are invited to come along to a special mass at the end of that week on Friday 31st August at 7pm at Sacred Heart Church, Balfour Road.

### Bournemouth trip

Day Trip to Bournemouth, Saturday August 4th. Leaving from Blackbird Leys and Cowley - please ask for times when booking. Book early to secure seats. Ring 01865 771092, 01865 456801, 01865 763732 or 01865 767637. Adults £16, children £10. Run by Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Catholic Caribbean Association.

## Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground Summer Playscheme



**30th July - 31 August 2007, for 5-16 year olds**

From £3.00 a day depending on activities  
Activities include: Swimming, arts and crafts, "the science of wizardry", daytrips, ice-skating and much more....

*For more info and a programme ring Alston on 747704*

**See page 11 for events celebrating 50 years of Blackbird Leys**

*If you have a regular event that you would like to see in the What's On section, please tell us! Write to What's On, Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys, Oxford OX4 7BX. Or simply e-mail [editor@leysnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@leysnews.co.uk), putting "What's On" in the e-mail's subject heading. We'd love to hear from you.*

## Wild flower competition Open to adults and children

Try and identify the following wild flowers. All entries with more than 6 correct answers entered in a draw to win a **£20 WHSmiths voucher**.  
(These photos were all taken in late June, in or around Gillian's Park)



# Leading Councillor says “Thank You”

## City Councillor Jean Fooks has said ‘thank you’ to the people of Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys for the part they are playing in making Oxford’s new recycling scheme a big success.

THE COUNCIL HAS just announced that, during June, 40 per cent of the waste that was collected from homes in the city was recycled.

Cllr Fooks, Oxford City Council’s Executive Member for a Cleaner City, says: “This is one month’s figure and we know that recycling rates can vary, but to achieve this milestone so soon is great news.

“Once again it demonstrates that, while there have been difficulties, the vast majority of Oxford residents have made the best use of the new recycling services we have put in place.

“Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys are a big part of the city, and the field officers and collection crews who are working here say the introduction of the scheme in the area went very smoothly.

“I would like to thank all the residents for the contribution they have made to the success of the scheme and encourage everyone to continue to recycle as much as they can.

“The more we recycle, the less we dump unnecessarily in ugly landfill tips. This is good for the environment. It saves resources and is one of the ways we can help reduce climate change and global warming.”

### Field officers can help

Now that the whole of the Leys is part of the new recycling scheme, Oxford City Council is working hard with residents to make sure it carries on working as well as possible.

One of the things residents have asked is that a big effort is made to stop the area looking untidy because a few people aren’t playing their part.

The Council has a team of recycling champions to promote the scheme, and field officers who can visit residents who may be having difficulty getting used to it.

Field Officer Lili Briggs says: “My job covers a variety of issues, but one of the most common is residents who are having difficulty moving their bins and boxes. This is something we can help with. Working in Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys, I have found the residents extremely pleasant and welcoming. A lot of their issues were needing larger bins, which I was able to resolve. I hope the recycling rate continues to rise in this area.”

On the whole, this area of the city has taken to the scheme very well. The majority of issues seem to be due to overflowing wheelie bins. This problem can be solved by recycling more. Each household can have two free blue boxes and two free green boxes for recycling. If this is not enough

then you can buy a blue wheelie bin for a one-off price of £20.

*If you need advice or would like to be put in touch with one of the recycling champions, please contact City Works on 01865 252900 or email [recycling@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@oxford.gov.uk).*

### Few face fines

The Council also has enforcement officers who can, if needed, start legal action against the very small minority who ignore advice on waste issues. But, says one of the team, Graham Eagle, most people do respond quickly when asked to do things differently: “Our ultimate aim is to increase the amount of recycling that people are doing. We are out in Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys regularly to highlight properties that have things like an overflowing wheelie bin, rubbish put out on the wrong day or in the wrong week, bins or boxes left on the pavement after collection day, or rubbish being put into the wrong bin or box.

“If we see a problem, we’ll write to the resident. The letters that we send are designed to educate people about the recycling scheme and come with a calendar advising on what rubbish goes into which bin or box. The letters encourage people to get in touch with us to ask for advice.

“For the few people who ignore the letters, we can and will take action in the form of a legal notice. If the problem continues then residents can be fined £100 for each offence. Failure to pay the fine could result in a much larger one, currently £1,000.

“If you get a letter from us about your waste and recycling, it is important that you: Understand why we’ve written to you. Get in touch and ask for advice, if you need it, on what to do.

Do your best to prevent the problem from happening again.

“We believe that our process is fair and gives people plenty of chance to get help and advice on the new scheme. Recycling is a big change in the way we dispose of our rubbish, and takes effort from both residents and the Council to achieve. I believe that by working together we can continue to increase the amount that we recycle and remove unwanted rubbish from our streets.”



Above: Resident Iain Booker (pictured with Field Officer Lili Briggs and Environmental Enforcement Officer Graham Eagle), says: “Even though I’m disabled, I find recycling easy to do. I just carry it out in a bag and put it into the separate boxes. If I can do it anybody can!”

# Thank You Blackbird Leys



If you need more help you can contact us in many ways

W: [www.oxford.gov.uk/newrecycling](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/newrecycling)  
E: [recycling@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@oxford.gov.uk) Textline: 07786 200440  
Helpline: 01865 252900

Oxford City Council,  
City Works,  
Marsh Road,  
Cowley,  
Oxford OX4 2HH

## Recycling is growing faster than ever in Oxford thanks to you!



## Seven tips for getting greener

### 1. Recycle whatever you can.

If you live on the Leys, your recycling boxes and collection service will be completely free at the point of use. You’ve already paid for it out of your council tax, so why not use it?

### 2. Buy local.

Why buy food flown from the other side of the planet when there’s so much local produce available? Try the East Oxford Farmers’ Market, every Saturday from noon to 3pm at the Asian Cultural Centre, Manzil Way.

### 3. Save water.

It might sound crazy when you look at pictures of the recent flooding, but water

shortages will become a serious problem if global warming continues. Getting a water meter will give you an idea about how much you use daily.

### 4. Think twice about flying.

Flying causes more environmental damage than almost any other human activity. Think about whether it would be possible to make your journey by boat or train instead of jumping on an aeroplane.

### 5. Buy second-hand.

Buying items such as clothes or books second-hand means that you’re reducing your impact on the planet by cutting out the cost of manufacturing and

transporting new goods.

### 6. Buy energy efficient products

Change all your light bulbs to energy saving light bulbs. Also buy white goods that have an “A” energy rating or above. The ratings run from A++ to G. Initially “A” graded products will cost slightly more but they will save you money in the long run as they will be more efficient.

### 7. Cut down on packaging waste.

Even better than recycling is not to bring the rubbish into your home in the first place.

## Green Fingers

By Stuart Mabbutt

## A busy time in the garden

THIS MONTH SEES a return to a checklist of tasks, together with advice that may help many of us in our own gardens as we are busily working away in them at this busy time.

As soon as outdoor tomatoes are fully-grown and are showing the third or fourth truss of flowers, pinch out the growing point, two leaves above the truss. Do not pinch out the joint immediately above the top truss, but leave two leaves to draw up the sap from the roots and to manufacture food for the fruits.

Blackcurrant bushes which have been picked clear of fruit should be pruned. The fruit is borne on last years wood, and all the pruning necessary is to cut out some of the older branches which produced fruit. Cutting out the oldest in this way encourages the development of young branches from the bottom.

Lift globe beetroot that is ready and put into a temporary store. A covering of soil is enough to keep them fresh. If left in the ground they become coarse, woody and hard.

Peaches and nectarines which are ripening should not be fed, and watering should be omitted where possible, as the fruit is easily spoiled. Pick the fruit as they ripen.

If you have room and the wish, you may sow hardy annuals outside. They will come through most ordinary winters and seem to flower better and longer than those sown in the spring. Clarkias, godetias, eschscholtzias and candy-tuft are all suitable. Antirrhinum sown outside and thinned later will do well too.

Evergreen hedges, such as yew and holly, should be clipped now too. Beech and hornbeam, while not evergreen, if trimmed now will produce some young growths, the leaves of which remain brown and quite decorative all winter. Lavender hedges can be clipped and cuttings taken too.

Now is the time to start thinking about the types of new roses that you may want to have growing in your garden next summer. If you are planning to buy bare rooted plants to plant in the autumn send off your order as soon as is reasonably practicable, because new introductions and popular varieties are frequently sold out well before planting time.

If you are looking for some interesting roses you could try a variety named Troika. This is a hybrid tea type of bush rose. It has copper, salmon and peach coloured petals and is amazingly fragrant. It vigorously grows to 2 ½ feet in height. It flowers early in the season and though it is rain resistant and the flowers do not fade as they get older, it is prone to disease if you are the type of gardener to neglect your roses. If you put the effort in it will reward you accordingly though.

That little lot should keep you busy for a while.

Happy Gardening  
STUART MABBUTT

## Schools News

### Glowing OFSTED report for Windale

Windale School has received a much-improved OFSTED report following an inspection at the end of June. The school is now graded as Good, an improvement on the school's previous grading of Satisfactory.

The report said: "This is a good school that has improved well since its last inspection. The headteacher gives strong purposeful leadership in promoting equal opportunities. The quality of care, guidance and support is good."

The OFSTED report particularly praised the high standard of teaching and pupils' keenness to learn. It said that good teaching was the reason why standards in English, mathematics and science are rising across the school.

The inspectors acknowledged that many pupils at Windale are faced with barriers to learning. For example, there are above-average numbers of pupils who do not speak English as their first language. There is also an above-average percentage of pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities. The report said that these pupils make good progress thanks to the extra support provided by Windale.

The school's use of its allotment also received praise for raising children's awareness of the environment.

Headteacher Maureen Thompson congratulated staff and pupils on the OFSTED report in the school's newsletter.

### Hill End camping trip

Pupils at Windale enjoyed an action-packed camping trip in July.

Year 3 and 4 pupils went on a two-night trip to Hill End campsite near Farmoor. The children enjoyed outdoor activities such as pond dipping, orienteering and "bug safari". They also made masks coloured with flower petals and tripped over their feet trying the "caterpillar racing".

Lehia Platt, aged 8, wrote:

"I played kick ball, then I went pond dipping. Our dormitory was up a big hill. Then we had a camp fire, then we went to the woods with Ms Thompson to find lots of leaves and twigs. There was a long river that had dirt in. Then we went swimming in the water. It was very, very cold. There were four groups of us called Oaks, Ash, Willows and Birch. We saw a deer and fox in the woods. We had to be quiet because they were scared."



All pictures: Veronica Bird

## Designs Hair Salon

### & Urban Clothing

71 Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford

077 686 3318



Weaves, dreadlocks, Relaxers, Cornrows, Plaits, Highlites, Lowlites, Wigs, Perms, Wash & Set etc...

Beauty Treatments & Nailbar also available

Lines of Clothing including:

Rocwear  
Raw Blue  
Tu Pac  
Bad Boy  
Jeans  
Lot 29  
Academics

And a lot more!



**10% off with this advert**

### Andrew Smith in Parliament

**News of what the East Oxford MP has been speaking about in the House of Commons.**

On 5th July, Andrew Smith described the new Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills as "exciting and important".

John Denham, secretary of state for the new department, had spoken about the need to make higher education more accessible to students from families on low and middle incomes - "hard-working families who are doing the right thing by encouraging their children to go to university".

The department plans to make full grants available to new students from families with incomes of up to £25,000 - an increase from the current maximum of £18,360. The department estimates that 50,000 more students each year will receive full grants once the system is up and running. The change will take effect for students entering higher education in 2008.

Andrew Smith described the department's plans as "an excellent start", but stressed the need to effectively communicate the new measures to prospective students from poorer backgrounds.

On 16th July, Mr Smith's focus was on disabled people. He asked Ivan Lewis from the Department of Health when the expected review of community equipment for disabled people and wheelchair services will be finished. He received the answer that the community equipment review will be ready in April 2007 and the wheelchair services review will be ready in April 2008.

Mr Smith also asked what the Government is doing about providing communication aids to disabled children. He received the answer that responsibility for assessing individual needs for communication aids rests with local health and social care agencies.

Andrew Smith is MP for East Oxford and lives on the Leys. See page 15 for his contact details and surgery times.

The information in this article was taken from the They Work For You website [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com)

# Including Leys Children

**A new staff member at the Leys Children's Centre helps with paying for childcare and finding ways of including children with specific needs**



VICTORIA MCAULEY HAS just started work with the Leys Children's Centre. She's called an inclusion worker and she can offer ideas, advice and practical help.

Victoria's job also includes visiting settings (such as pre-schools, childcare) and exploring with staff ways that any child can be included.

She is also setting up some new projects, including a new (pilot) short summer play scheme at Cuddesdon Corner.

Victoria can advise you about inclusion issues for children aged from birth to 5. Give her a call if you have any concerns or would like to find out more about inclusion issues on the Leys for

children in that age range.

Victoria also has lots of information about help with childcare funding for parents and carers. She has information about the fund which can help parents who are wanting to do a course or some training.

Victoria administers the Leys Help With Childcare fund- which can help out for up to six months. Settings or individual parents or carers can phone for an application form and more details.

*Victoria is in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. You can call her on 01865 779615 or email victoria.mcaulay@oxfordshire.gov.uk*

## Blackbird Leys - 50 years

### Calendar of Events:

#### AUGUST

##### **U-16 Table-Tennis Tourney**

*Wed 22th August Afternoon*

The Leys Table Tennis King and Queen will be crowned on 22th August, 2007 at the Church Hall. If you live on the Leys and are aged between 10 and 16 years - and are not chicken - pick up a registration form at the Leys Linx Centre and start practising; you may just pick up the Sports World vouchers reserved for 1st & 2nd place winners in the male and female categories.

*Registration forms are available from the Leys Linx Centre at Blackbird Leys (telephone 01865 714492). You can also email Patrick Mukholi (pmukholi@yahoo.com) for further enquiries, or telephone 01865 748284.*

##### **Leys CDI Summer playscheme**

*Throughout August, Youth Centre at the Community Centre and other venues.*

The 2007 playscheme will put on 50 special summer activities for local youngsters to enjoy!

*Call Marsha Jackson on 07731 144056  
www.blackbird50.info*

##### **CIRCLE DANCE**

*4th August*

*Glow Hall, Blackbird Leys 5pm - 8pm*

Suitable for adults and children aged 10 or over. No experience of any kind of dancing necessary, the dances will be taught on the day. The event is free. However, you will need to pay a deposit of £4 to reserve your place (because we need to make sure we have the right number of people turn up for the circle!) which will be returned on the day. The dances won't be too strenuous but you can sit one or two of them out if you need a break.

*For more information or to reserve your place phone Jim on 07979 733848 or Anna on 07974 791319*

#### SEPTEMBER

##### **Leys Fair**

*Saturday 8th September 12 noon to 5pm  
Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre & Park*

The ever popular annual end-of-summer community get-together with a BBL 50 theme. Music, funfair, circus skills, dance, displays, stalls, Laser Quest, under 8s area, sports, balloon modelling, face painting,

bouncy castles and lots and lots of other free activities!

*Call Natalie Huckin on 07733 338593  
www.blackbird50.info*

##### **The Labyrinth Challenge.**

*22nd September*

*10am to 4pm,  
The Church of the Holy Family, Cuddesdon Way, Blackbird Leys.*

How would you like to step outside your busy life for 30 minutes, into a labyrinth of relaxing and meditative music? Defuse your emotional pressure with the Labyrinth Challenge. See if you can come out the same person as you entered!

Participants will negotiate a musical and spiritual obstacle course that they can drop out of at any time... or run over and over again.

*No booking required. Just drop in on the day. Email Patrick Mukholi (pmukholi@yahoo.com) for further enquiries, or telephone: 01865 748284.*

#### OCTOBER

##### **Launch of the 50th Anniversary Recipe Book**

*Blackbird Leys Youth & Community Centre.  
Call Kate Dunsdon on*

*07733 338593*

*www.blackbird50.info*

#### NOVEMBER

##### **Leys Playgroups Winter Show**

*Wednesday, November 28 10.30am, FREE!*

*Blackbird Leys Youth & Community Centre.*

Uncle Brian takes the under 5's on a journey of Christmas wonder!

*Contact:*

*Paul Isaacs  
Centre Manager  
01865 401098*

#### DECEMBER

##### **Leys Christmas Lights Competition**

*First three weeks of December FREE!*

*All Blackbird Leys homes!*

Will your display be voted 'best on Blackbird Leys'?

*Contact OCHA (Oxford Citizens Housing Association)*

*www.blackbird50.info*

##### **Seniors' Qualiday**

*Saturday, 15th December 6.30pm onwards*

*Blackbird Leys Youth & Community Centre.*

The senior users at the Community Centre have an old fashioned 'qualiday' celebration -

*music by Colin Smith.*

*Contact: Blackbird Leys Community Association  
01865 435954*

*www.blackbird50.info*

## PCSO News

### Hello from the PCSOs

**Your local Police Community Support Officers fill us in on what they've been doing since you last heard from them.**



**The last time you heard from us in Leys News, it was to tell you that a new PCSO, James Kachellek, had joined the team. James has now been out on the beat with us for a few months, and he's really enjoying working on the Leys.**

**Training as a PCSO is very hands-on; you're out on the street from day one. The training period means getting to know a huge number of people and building relationships with the community.**

**Building relationships is a big part of what the PCSOs are about. It isn't all about attending jobs and reacting to emergency situations. We recently attended the Kassam Fun Day just to be a police presence there, interact with the kids and talk to people. There were about 4,000 people there and we felt there was a positive reaction to us, especially since we brought the Mini along!**

**At the moment, one of the most important aspects of our work is finding out what the community's priorities are. As part of the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG), we have been doing door-to-door canvassing in an effort to discover what residents think we need to tackle. Our aim is to talk to people who don't normally get a say. We've visited people with mobility problems and asked our questions in schools and parks as well as door-to-door. We're aware that Greater Leys is sometimes left out, so we've asked a lot of people there too. All answers are completely confidential, so people can say what they think without any worries.**

**We're hoping that this period of canvassing will give us a clear idea of what Leys residents think we need to work on. We've also been asking people to suggest solutions to the problems, just in case someone comes up with a brilliant idea that we haven't thought of!**

**We also gave a helping hand to an Oxford University undergraduate, Stuart Mures, who was doing research as part of his degree. He wanted to find out how PCSOs fit in to neighbourhood policing, so we helped him deliver several hundred questionnaires. Stuart would like to thank the people of the Leys for all the help they have given him in his work.**

**We've been doing all this on top of all our regular work - patrolling, attending jobs, meetings and of course the dreaded paperwork - so we've been very busy over the past few months. However, we're never too busy to listen to members of the community who have concerns - or even if you just want to get to know us.**

**If you don't see us before then, you'll be able to catch up with us at the Leys Fair on September 8th. Please come over and say hello!**

*"How can I increase advertising revenues for my organisation?"*

*"Does poor photography spoil the effect of my stories?"*

*"I know I'm doing great work. But does everybody else?"*

*"Am I getting my message across?"*

*"Could my organisation benefit from basic training in creating a website?"*

*"Does my organisation have a personality of its own?"*

*"Could my community newspaper benefit from the professional touch?"*

## **FREE training for community groups in the following areas:**

### **Design and layout** - Monday 20th August, 2.30 - 4.30pm

- What makes a well-designed leaflet or newsletter.
- How to create clear and eye-catching written communications.

### **Photography** - Monday 20th August, 5.30 - 7.30pm

- How to use a digital camera.
- How to take better quality pictures.
- How to use picture editing software.

### **Journalism** - Tuesday 21st August, 2.30 - 4.30pm

- How to gather the information for a news story.
- How to write a professional-sounding news story.

### **Selling advertising space** - Tuesday 21st August, 5.30 - 7.30pm

- How to plan and make an ad sales pitch.
- How to organise your advertising sales campaigns.
- How to generate repeat business.

### **PR and marketing** - Wednesday 22nd August, 2.30 - 4.30pm

- Get coverage for your organisation in the local press.
- Develop your organisation's public image.
- Enhance image awareness at all levels of your organisation.

### **Branding** - Wednesday 22nd August, 5.30 - 7.30pm

- Understand what branding is all about - and why even small community groups need it.
- Identify your own organisation's brand.
- Work towards using your brand to gain visibility and respect for your organisation in the wider community.

### **Communication strategies** - Thursday 23rd August, 2.30 - 4.30pm

- Identify your target audience.
- Identify channels of communication.
- Find the best ways of getting your organisation's core message across.

### **Internet/websites** - Thursday 23rd August, 5.30 - 7.30pm

- How to plan your website's content.
- The basics of creating a website.
- How to make your website easy to find and accessible.

## **Leys News Training**

Workshops will be held at the Blackbird Leys IT Hub.

For more information, or to book your place on any or all of the workshops contact Leys News on **01865 711756** or email **mail@leysnews.co.uk**

## Residents' Panel AGM is a success

Oxford Citizens' Housing Association (OCHA) held a well-attended Residents' Panel AGM on 5 July.



OVER 30 RESIDENTS attended the AGM, which was followed by a buffet dinner and a performance from the Blackbird Leys Choir.

This AGM saw the departure of John Holloway, who has been a member of the residents' panel for over 11 years but has now decided to stand down. The current Chair, Jean Soames, thanked Mr Holloway for his great contribution.

At the AGM, Vernon Ronald from Greater Leys was elected as a new residents' panel member.

Wendy Spray, Resident Involvement Manager for OCHA, gave a review of all the resident activities undertaken over the last year. Chief Executive Jonathan Higgs then spoke about the proposed partnership with Westlea Housing, based in Wiltshire. There then followed a presentation from Ivor Williams, chair of Westlea District Forum, which is their equivalent of our residents' panel.

When all the business was over, residents heard three songs from Blackbird Leys Choir, including one which had been specially commissioned for the choir.

## Are You Being Fair to your Feet?

Most of us take our feet for granted, don't we? It's only when things start to go wrong that most of us even notice them at all! Registered Osteopath **DR BARRY HARKER** discusses some of the everyday problems resulting from foot disorders which he sees regularly in his clinic at the Leys Health Centre.

IF WE STOP to consider what our feet have to put up with, each and every day, let alone the extra insults we throw at them by wearing 'fashion' footwear and indulging in sporting activities, it's really amazing they don't let us down more often than they do!

Our feet are actually quite complicated pieces of kit consisting of 24 separate bones interacting through many complex joints. The foot is normally held in an 'arched' shape, which is necessary to permit the transition between 2 essential and contrasting functions as we move. It must be flexible as the heel strikes the ground, reducing the stress of impact, and then become rigid so that we can more effectively propel ourselves forward at the next phase of the stride.

Unfortunately, this healthy arch is less developed in some people and in any case it tends to flatten out in most of us with age, especially as we

apply our weight. The essential flexibility of the foot is then lost, leading to a variety of painful disorders. These may result either directly from the loss of the foot's ability to change shape and function, or from consequent effects on the length and shape of the foot so that shoes no longer fit both feet properly or become very uncomfortable to wear.

Less obviously, abnormal flattening of the arch as weight is applied causes the tibia (shin-bone) to rotate inwards, then outwards as the foot is lifted again. This happens with every step, thousands of times a day, resulting in huge stresses on the structures of the knee joints. Eventually, interference with muscle co-ordination in the thigh causes serious damage to the hip joints. And if one arch drops more than the other that leg becomes effectively shorter resulting in pelvic tilting. This can lead to a wide variety of problems

through the resulting 'compensatory' spinal curvatures.

In fact, a surprisingly extensive range of problems can arise from dysfunctions of the foot - among them bunions, calluses, heel pain, ankle pain, shin-splints, knee pain, arthritis of the hip, low back pain, sciatica, neck and shoulder pain.

The good news is that many of these painful conditions can be dramatically improved by simply restoring the foot's normal arched shape and applying gentle osteopathic correction of the secondary results - and it doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg, especially as patients registered at The Leys Health Centre benefit from considerably subsidised consultation fees.

For more information about how osteopathy could help with your pain, whether in your legs, feet or spine, why not give me a ring on 01628-477965.

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- Free Medicine Review Services
- Free Professional Advice on Health Related Matters
- Repeat Dispensing Services
- Residential and Nursing Homes Services

Other pharmacy services are available. Please ask us for details.

Address: In Spar, Dunnock Way, Greater Leys,  
Tel: 01865 401430, Fax: 01865 401435  
Email: theleys.pharmacy@npanet.co.uk



## Oxfordshire Mind

# On the Road to Recovery with Mind

MENTAL HEALTH CHARITY, Oxfordshire Mind, is hoping to re-launch its rural transport service and reach its fundraising target of £32,000 for a new mini bus this summer.

The Charity provides services for people with mental and emotional health problems such as anxiety, bereavement, depression, life crisis, loneliness, recovery from breakdowns, panic attacks, post-natal depression, stress and schizophrenia.

Part of Oxfordshire Mind's work is to run fifteen good, effective, adult community resource projects for anyone who is

experiencing poor mental health. Each project is welcoming and experienced staff are available for individuals to obtain advice and support. The projects have an array of information and leaflets about various aspects of mental health.

Refreshments are provided and there is always a chance to meet others and make new friends. Oxfordshire Mind is also keen that individuals have chance to access a range of therapies and creative groups such as massage, reflexology, aromatherapy, yoga, head massage, Chi Gong, meditation, dance, music,

creative arts etc. which can greatly improve people's mental well being.

Spokesperson for Oxfordshire Mind, Nicky Clargo, said "We are concerned that people who live in rural areas may not be aware of our rural transport service and may be missing out on the help and support they need.

"Often people who live in rural areas feel even more isolated due to infrequent public transport. Others may just need some encouragement when leaving home if there are no bus routes nearby.

"When someone is feeling very depressed it is often

difficult for them to take the first steps to recovery. We hope that by providing this service the road to recovery can seem a more positive experience.

"We have two buses at present and a fantastic group of ten volunteer drivers. The drivers are very much part of the Oxfordshire Mind team and they are trained to be sensitive to the needs of people with mental or emotional health needs."

At present Oxfordshire Mind's buses provide services in villages surrounding the following towns:

**Mondays:** Bicester, Kidlington, Henley,  
**Tuesdays:** Thame, Wallingford, Wantage  
**Wednesdays:** Abingdon, Didcot, Witney,  
**Thursdays:** Thame,  
**Fridays:** Chipping Norton.

For more information please call Oxfordshire Mind on 01865 310830

Ext 22, or visit our website [www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk)

## A new bus for Oxfordshire Mind

Oxfordshire Mind is currently trying to raise £32,000 to replace one of its buses. We have raised £16,000 so far. We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to make a donation.

Please send a cheque payable to 'Oxfordshire Mind's Mini Bus Appeal' and send it to Oxfordshire Mind, 125 Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6AH or donate online at [www.justgiving.com/mindsbusappeal](http://www.justgiving.com/mindsbusappeal)

**Thanks for your support!**



### STOP PRESS!

**We are pleased to report that we have now reached £16,000 towards a new bus - this means we are half way there!**

## Oxfordshire Mind events coming up ...

### Jeremy Paxman to talk for Oxfordshire Mind

Friday, 27th July

Jeremy Paxman, the renowned journalist and author, will visit Oxford to give a talk in aid of Oxfordshire Mind. He has written several books including an acclaimed work on English culture and identity 'The English' and his most recent publication 'On Royalty', which will also be the topic of his talk for Mind. The book examines the meaning of monarchy in present-day Britain and asks if royalty is still relevant today.

Jeremy's talk will be on Friday, 27th July 2007, at 5.30 p.m. at the Taylor Institution, St Giles, Oxford. Admission costs £6 (£3 concessions).

Tickets are not available in advance, it is pay on the door only, so please turn up in plenty of time to be sure of getting a place.

### A Sponsored Walk Across Port Meadow (Oxford) - 6 Miles

Saturday, 11th August

Start: 11.00 a.m., Outside Antiquity Hall Pub, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford

Within seconds of leaving the

bustle of Hythe Bridge Street, you will find yourself walking a quiet stretch of the Oxford Canal towpath and, apart from a minor interlude in Wolvercote village, the scenery is rural from then on. During the walk we will stop at one of Oxford's famous riverside pubs, the Trout Inn at Wolvercote, for a drink and a short rest.

### A Sponsored Walk through Combe and Blenheim Park - 6.5 Miles

Saturday, 15th September

Start: 11.00 a.m.  
Outside The Cock Inn at Combe  
This walk passes through Combe and into Blenheim Palace which has been described as the largest house in England and covers some seven acres of beautiful grounds. For sponsorship forms please contact Nicky Clargo on 01865 310830 Ext 22 or email [nicky.clargo@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk](mailto:nicky.clargo@oxfordshire-mind.org.uk)

### Oxfordshire Mind's Raffle

Friday, 28th September 2007

Please support our Summer Draw. Tickets cost just 50p each and there are some great prizes to

be won - visit [www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk) and complete the booking form and send in a cheque and we will complete the tickets for you (it's as simple as that!) If you'd like to help sell tickets PLEASE do get in touch with me. Good luck and thanks for your support!

### Sponsored Tandem Sky Dive Anytime!

Do YOU fancy undertaking the tough challenge of jumping 12,000 feet out of an aeroplane in aid of Oxfordshire Mind?

Once you exit the aeroplane you will accelerate to 120 mph, covering each thousand feet in approximately five seconds!

At 5,000 feet the instructor will deploy a square parachute so you can land softly and gently some four minutes later.

To participate in this event, individuals need to pay a registration fee of just £30 and pledge to raise £450 in sponsorship and through fundraising. A full fundraising pack is issued when you apply.

# Could Peter Tatchell be your next MP?

**He carried out a citizens' arrest on Robert Mugabe. He demonstrated against the Archbishop of Canterbury. He even spoke out against this year's Big Brother. Now Peter Tatchell has been selected as the Green Party candidate for Oxford East.**



LEYS VOTERS WILL see a well-known name on their ballot papers at the next general election. Peter Tatchell, famous for his tireless and often controversial campaigning, is standing in Oxford East in a bid to become Britain's first Green Party MP.

Mr Tatchell said: "The people of Oxford have an opportunity to make history by electing Britain's first Green MP. It is time for change. We are the anti-war party that champions public services, human rights and social justice, as well as environmental protection and action to reverse climate change."

Mr Tatchell is perhaps best known for carrying out two attempted citizen's arrests on Zimbabwe's president Robert Mugabe. He arrested Mr Mugabe for breaking international law by torturing Zimbabwe's citizens.

Leys residents with longer memories may also remember Mr Tatchell's 1998 demonstration in Canterbury Cathedral, where he and six other members of gay rights group OutRage! interrupted the Easter sermon by Dr George Carey, then Archbishop of Canterbury.

Mr Tatchell had been protesting against Dr Carey's support for Christian homophobia and interference in the lives of gay and lesbian Christians. His protest was non-violent, but he was attacked during the protest by a cathedral steward who later escaped prosecution.

More recently, Mr Tatchell spoke out against Channel 4's "double standards and bias" for evicting housemate Emily when she used a racist word, while treating housemate Laura's homophobic insults as much less serious.

In a press statement about his bid to become Oxford East MP, Mr Tatchell outlined his position on various local issues. "I strongly support local community campaigns against job cuts in the Oxfordshire NHS, the privatisation of Peers school and other public services, and the destruction of Warneford Meadow and nearby Radley Lakes."

He also opposes the move to expand the Westgate shopping centre, believing that the land should be used for affordable housing instead.

## ... Letters to the Editor. ...

**Thanks to everybody who took the trouble to write to Leys News and tell us what is on your mind. As a reward for your efforts, the writer of each letter on this page will shortly be receiving a dozen delicious Krispy Kreme doughnuts – absolutely free.**

### Dialling disaster

Something I really hate is 0870 and 0845 numbers. Lots of companies have started using them and they are supposed to be 'local' or 'national' numbers but it's a big con because all the phone providers charge more for these numbers.

Also the company you phone is actually earning 4p a minute while you try and get them to sort out something they have messed up! I have free minutes with my mobile phone but they only include landline and mobile numbers and not '0870'.

The other annoying thing is that the companies with 0870 numbers are more likely to keep you hanging on while you go through loads of 'press 1 if you want to pay your bill' menu options so you end up spending a fortune. I suppose I should be thankful my Mum hasn't got one yet with options like "press

1 if you want the Delia Smith chocolate cake recipe, press 2 if you want me to water your plants while you're away, press 3 if you want to moan about your sister..."

AP

### Blocked Curbs

Why aren't there more dropped curbs in Blackbird Leys? I am in a wheelchair and have to go twice as far as necessary to visit my daughter as Pegasus Road/Blackbird Leys Road has no way up in between 77-85, so I have to go past all the houses on the block down an alleyway that brings me up onto the pavement.

Paula Braye  
Blackbird Leys

### Council confusion

I was a little surprised to see p. 19 of a recent issue of the Leys News, carrying a description of your local representatives

which listed County Councillors as belonging to "Oxfordshire City Council".

People are sufficiently confused by having two tiers of local government and I think it can only add to the confusion if an incorrect title is given to the council that provides people with 80% of their services. Could I ask that all future editions describe the County Council as "Oxfordshire County Council".

Keith R Mitchell CBE  
Leader of the Council

*Editor's note: Our apologies to anyone who was confused by the local representatives listings in our June issue. It was a typographical error that we failed to spot at proofreading stage. Many thanks to Mr Mitchell for bringing this to our attention.*

## ... Your local representatives ...

### PARISH COUNCIL

**Chairman:** Lee Cole

**Vice Chair:** Gordan Roper

**Parish Clerk:** Helen Shayler

**Non-position holders:** Chris Hatton, Rae Humberstone (see City Council section below), Cyril Martin, Ricardo Marshall, Sophia Marshall, Rosemary Morlin, Gordon Roper, Carol Roberts, Val Smith, Pat Stannard.

For further details telephone 01865 734346 during office hours of 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday. Answering service outside office hours.

The mailing address for the Parish Council is 10 Swan Street, Oxford OX29 4HU.

### OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

#### Blackbird Leys Ward:



Lee Cole - Independent Working Class Association

31 Long Ground, Greater Leys, OX4 7WS, 07886 463580

Surgery: Every Wednesday from 6.30 - 8.30pm at the Clockhouse, Greater Leys.



Rae Humberstone - Labour

75 Little Bury, Blackbird Leys, 01865 779678

Email: raehumberstone@btinternet.com

Surgery: 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at Blackbird Leys Community Centre, 11am - 12pm

#### Northfield Brook Ward:



Stuart Craft - Independent Working Class Association

12 Brocklesby Road, Oxford OX4 4QJ, 07733 274324

Surgery: Every Wednesday from 6.30 - 8.30pm at the Clockhouse, Greater Leys.



Jane Elizabeth Lacey - Independent Working Class Association

71 Knights Road, Blackbird Leys, 07947 225297

Surgery: No weekly surgery, but available by telephone

### OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

#### Leys & Lye Division:



Val Smith - Labour

4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD,

01865 305080

Email: val.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Surgery: 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 11am - 12pm at Blackbird Leys Community Centre, Blackbird Leys Road



Barbara Gatehouse - Labour

51 Ash Grove, Headington,

Oxford OX3 9JN,

01865 741060

Barbara.gatehouse@oxfordshire.gov.uk

### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

#### Member of Parliament for Oxford East



Andrew Smith - Labour

Suite A,

21 Templars Square

Cowley,

Oxford OX4 2UZ

01865 305080

andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net

Surgery: Every 3rd Friday at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre from 3.00pm

## Care Support Workers Needed

**Full and part-time care workers needed in Blackbird Leys and area.**

Reliable, caring people needed to give real care and support at home to physically disabled people and their families - all aspects of personal and social care.

£8.50-12.50ph on completion of training; own transport and telephone essential; hours to suit; fully paid training; four weeks holiday; mileage between jobs; CRB check required; permanent position.

**Contact us for an application form (01865) 260280**

**Crossroads Oxfordshire**

3 Hurst Street, Oxford, OX4 1EZ

care@oxfordshirecrossroads.org.uk

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## WHAT DO AREA COMMITTEES DO?

The six Area Committees are responsible for the following:

**Abandoned vehicles, allotments, cemeteries, decisions on planning applications, dog wardens, ditches and streams, public toilets, car parks, parks & countryside management, street cleaning, street naming, community centres.**

## SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Monday 6th August**

6.30pm, Rose Hill Community Centre

**Monday 10th September**

6.30pm, Blackbird Leys Community Centre

**Monday 8th October**

6.30pm, Rose Hill Community Centre



Ring 01865 252249 for further information

## Want to Advertise in Leys News?

- Leys News is the only newspaper which is delivered through every door on the Blackbird Leys/Greater Leys estate.
- Leys News reaches almost 5,000 homes. Up to 14,000 people could see your advert.
- We can design your advert free of charge, if required.

To place an advert please contact our office manager on 01865 711756.

# SMITH'S SIDE WARM UP FOR THE SEASON



Oxford United are back, with pre-season well under way and the new season in the Blue Square Premier League fast approaching.

JIM SMITH'S SIDE have four home warm-up games against Football League opposition before they begin the season in earnest on August 11th against Forest Green Rovers. The U's take on Bournemouth, Luton Town, Wycombe Wanderers and Birmingham City in pre-season, and have new signing Gary Twigg looking to get among the goals. The 23 year old is well known to manager Smith, who gave him his Premiership debut for Derby at just 17 years of age, and the former Airdrie hitman will be hoping to fire United to the top of the table once more.

Admission for the four home pre-season games is just £8 for adults, £3 for over 65s and just £1 for under 16s, provided tickets are purchased before 2pm on match day. Call 01865 337533, or visit the ticket office in person, to book your place and enjoy some top quality football at a very special price.

Right: new signing Gary Twigg



## OXFORD UNITED BLUE SQUARE PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

- Sat Aug 11 Forest Green Rovers H
- Thur Aug 16 Cambridge United A
- Sat Aug 19 Burton Albion A
- Sat Aug 25 Stafford Rangers H
- Mon Aug 27 Stevenage Borough A
- Sat Sep 1 Halifax Town H
- Tue Sep 4 Exeter City H
- Sat Sep 8 Altrincham A
- Sat Sep 15 Aldershot Town H
- Tue Sep 18 Grays Athletic A
- Thu Sep 20 Histon A
- Tue Sep 25 Salisbury City H
- Sat Sep 30 York City H
- Sat Oct 6 Droylsden A
- Thu Oct 11 Torquay United H
- Sat Oct 13 Farsley Celtic A
- Sat Oct 20 Woking H
- Sat Oct 27 F.A. Cup 4th Qualifying Round
- Thu Nov 1 Rushden & Diamonds A
- Sat Nov 10 F.A. Cup 1
- Sat Nov 17 Ebbsfleet United H
- Sat Nov 24 Kidderminster Harriers A
- Sat Dec 1 Weymouth H/F.A. Cup 2
- Sat Dec 8 Northwich Victoria A
- Sat Dec 15 F.A. Trophy 1
- Sat Dec 22 Setanta Shield 4
- Wed Dec 26 Crawley Town H
- Sat Dec 29 Kidderminster Harriers H
- Tue Jan 1 Crawley Town A
- Sat Jan 5 Altrincham H F.A. Cup 3
- Sat Jan 12 F.A. Trophy 2
- Sat Jan 19 Exeter City A
- Sat Jan 26 Grays Athletic H F.A. Cup 4
- Sat Feb 2 Aldershot Town A F.A. Trophy 3
- Tue Feb 5 Setanta Shield 5
- Sat Feb 9 Histon H
- Tue Feb 12 Salisbury City A
- Sat Feb 16 Droylsden H F.A. Cup 5
- Tue Feb 19 Setanta Shield 6
- Sat Feb 23 York City A F.A. Trophy 4
- Sat Mar 1 Forest Green Rovers A
- Tue Mar 4 Cambridge United H
- Sat Mar 8 Burton Albion H F.A. Cup 6 / F.A. Trophy Semi-Final (1)
- Tue Mar 11 Setanta Shield Semi-Final
- Sat Mar 15 Stafford Rangers A F.A. Trophy Semi-Final (2)
- Sat Mar 22 Halifax Town A
- Mon Mar 24 Stevenage Borough H
- Sat Mar 29 Northwich Victoria H
- Sat Apr 5 Weymouth A
- Sun Apr 6 F.A. Cup Semi-Final
- Tue Apr 8 Torquay United A
- Sat Apr 12 Farsley Celtic H
- Sat Apr 19 Woking A
- Sat Apr 26 Rushden & Diamonds H
- Sat May 3 Ebbsfleet United A
- Sat May 17 F.A. Cup Final

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## Fun Day a Roaring Success



THOUSANDS OF FANS came along to the Oxford United fun day, with the highlight being a huge game of football between the first team squad and the Oxford United Juniors.

The Juniors, who had enjoyed a special training session on the pitch beforehand, then got the chance to meet their heroes and collect autographs, while tours of the ground, bungee runs, penalty shoot outs and bouncy castles kept the whole family entertained.

## UNITED'S PRE-SEASON SCHEDULE:

|                |                   |   |        |
|----------------|-------------------|---|--------|
| Sat 21st July  | DIDCOT TOWN       | A | 3.00pm |
| Tue 24th July  | EASTLEIGH         | A | 7.45pm |
| Fri 27th July  | AFC BOURNEMOUTH   | H | 7.45pm |
| Mon 30th July  | LUTON TOWN        | H | 7.45pm |
| Wed 1st August | OXFORD CITY       | A | 7.45pm |
| Fri 3rd August | WYCOMBE WANDERERS | H | 7.45pm |
| Mon 6th August | BIRMINGHAM CITY   | H | 7.45pm |